IOWA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS PROCEDURE REGARDING TRANSFER OF PATIENT RECORDS

Questions regularly arise regarding a chiropractor's responsibility to transfer patient records. It is the Board's standard procedure to advise persons that the rules and ethical considerations found in 645—43.2(1) and 45.2(2) require licensed chiropractors to honor the requests made by patients which direct the chiropractor to release the records to a third party. Furthermore, the chiropractor does not have the right to refuse to release the records because the patient has an outstanding bill.

Notes made in treating a patient are primarily for the chiropractor's own use and constitute the chiropractor's personal property. However, on request of the patient, a chiropractor should provide a copy or summary of the record of the patient to another practitioner, an attorney, or other person designated by the patient. A reasonable fee may be assessed for the copying of records.

The patient record is a confidential document involving the physician patient relationship and should not be communicated to a third party without the patient's prior written consent unless required by law or to protect the welfare of the individual or the community.

Approved by the Board on March 24, 2004